The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields. And other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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COAL BARONS GIVE STATE FUNDS TO PROSECUTE UNION MINERS

Fayetteville, W. Va., Feb. 23.—After being advised from one end of the state to the other on the plea of miners to secure a fair trial, the murder trial of Frank Keeney, president of the West Virginia miners, is on at this place. The crime is alleged to have been committed during the march of miners three years ago.

This county is dominated by William McKell, an anti-union mine owner, who controls 25,000 acres of coal lands. He is a political and economic overlord, and is master of the lives of 10,000 employes. A private army of thugs and gun men are maintained in this county to combat any trade union sentiment.

The prosecution of the miners is directed and controlled by anti-union coal interests, which make no pretense of concealing their determination to "railroad" these union miners to the penitentiary. Witnesses have testified that they were paid various amounts for their evidence against the miners.

The forces in opposition to the miners are indicated by the following statement issued by President Keeney:

"Sitting there at the prosecuting attorney's table is Charles W. Osenton, chief counsel for the William McKell coal interests. He is representing the state.

"With him is Alfred Belcher, another coal interests lawyer, and the Logan county operators' association.

"There, beside Belcher, sits Emmett Keadle who is known as an employe of Don Chafin, sheriff of Logan county. Keadle also is a deputy sheriff. At least until a few months ago he was drawing his pay from the Logan county coal owners.

"At the same table is J. E. Thurman. He is a millionaire coal owner of Logan county. Thurman is the father of Walter Thurman, president of the Logan coal operators' association.

"Next to Thurman is S. A. Scott, president of the New River coal operators' association. And with Scott is M. L. Garvey, connected with the Maryland-New River association.

"Standing near the portals of the court house is Henry Gray, a Logan county thug who has been implicated in several disorders in Logan and Kanawha counties.

"And with Gray is James Scott, employed as paymaster by the Logan coal owners. He is the man who went on the witness stand in Lewisburg, where William Blizzard was tried several months ago, and admitted he paid state witnesses money to testify against Blizzard."

FINANCIERS WRECK RAILROADS; THIS CAUSES CAPITAL SCARCITY

Washington, Feb. 23.—The stereotyped plea that "the railroads cannot secure fresh capital," finds less response among lawmakers. The purpose of this plea is to secure tax reductions on the theory that the beneficiaries will invest their savings in industry.

In favoring the Mellon tax bill the majority report of the house committee on ways and means declared that they were answered in scathing manner last week by Congressman Oldfield.

"Every week since January 1 there has been over $100,000,000 of new capital put into the corporations of the country," said Mr. Oldfield. "That is at the rate of $6,000,000,000 a year in new capital. And yet they say we must let the rich off with 25 per cent less higher surtaxes so that they will have money to lend these institutions in order that they may run their business.

"Is it not a wonder, gentlemen, that after the experience of the American people with the railroad owners—not exactly the railroad owners of America—but the railroad wreckers of America—that they can get anybody to go into partnership with them and give them money with which to wreck on their business? I do not want to destroy the railroads; I do not want to hurt the railroads or any other business institutions in America, but I think it comes with poor grace for these men who have been and make an argument for a lower surtax in order to help the railroads to get money in order to carry on their business, when we all know they wrecked the New York, New Haven & Hartford, and that is the reason why they can not get partners.

"They wrecked the 'Frisco line, they wrecked the Rock Island road and the Gould outfit wrecked the Gould system. And then these men talk about reducing the surtax in order that they may get fresh money to put into their business.

"Everybody knows that 20 years ago the railroads owned every state legislature in this Union; they debauched everybody who was debauchable in the interest of the railroads—not in the interest of the railroads, either, but in the interest of the man who were promoting and fixing to wreck the railroads of the country. And yet they come here, my friends, and ask you to reduce the surtaxes that raise these same railroads may get additional money."

Congressman Oldfield called attention to testimony by a railroad president, who told a senate committee that motor trucks are injuring the freight business of railroads and that the remedy was to make the highways toll roads.

"Yes," said Mr. Oldfield, "let the people pay for the roads and then make them toll roads and pay for running over them, thus reducing the competition with the railroads and permitting the railroads to still hold up the people in freight and passenger rates."

GLAD-HAND OFFICIALS WOULD TRICK P. O. MEN

Denver, Col., Feb. 23.—In a letter to the trades and labor assembly, United States Senator Adams of this state lets postoffice employes know that they are being double-crossed by postoffice officials who promise to aid them in securing a living wage.

These officials are always present or mail their speeches to gathering of postal workers. They have a knife out for the bona fide unions of postal employes, and assure these workers that "you can depend on us in your wage movement."

"Rah! Rah! What did we tell yuh!" yelp the office pets and cheer leaders for the hand-picked company "unions" that are blessed by the officials.

Now Senator Adams exposes this duplicity. In his letter he pledges his support to the postoffice men, and concludes:

"I have obtained a ruling which the postal employes have to overcome is the lack of indorsement and support from the postoffice department.

"The senator is a member of the senate committee on postoffices and post roads. He is in an excellent position to know the views of the postoffice department chiefs.

INJUNCTION JUDGE REBUKED; CAN'T CONTROL FREE PRESS

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 23.—The federal court of appeals at Cincinnati has set aside the prison sentence and fine imposed by Federal Judge Ross on Jacob Cohen, editor of the Memphis Labor Review, who was charged with the contempt of court.

The cause of Judge Ross' wrath was an article on strikebreakers that Editor Cohen published in the 1922 Labor Day issue of his paper. Just previously Judge Ross issued an injunction against the striking railroad shop men. The writ was similar to the injunction issued at the request of Attorney General Daugherty.

The article that offended Judge Ross had no direct bearing on the railroad strike. It was a general indictment against strikebreakers, and had appeared in various labor papers. The editor assured the court it was published without intent to reflect on the judge.

Judge Ross held that the article was intended to incite disorder and bring the court into contempt. In passing sentence on the labor editor he showed his prejudice by censuring the strikers.

The Ross verdict revived a nationwide criticism of injunction judges by the labor press and sympathetic editors who realize what the labor injunction logically leads to.

An ironical criticism by G. V. Sanders, editor of the Memphis Press, infuriated Judge Ross, who fined the newspaper man $300.

Editor Cohen was not affected by threats of jail and fine. At his first opportunity, in a public speech he notified Judge Ross that he would never "bend the knee to an autocrat and a usurper of power."

While the labor injunction is bad enough at best, the Ross sentence, if upheld, would mean that a judge who carried his corporation attorney bias to the federal bench could silence any labor paper that printed anything distasteful to his former clients.

BACKWARD BANKERS TOLD TO BE LIBERAL

New York, Feb. 23.—A plea that bankers change their bourbon outlook on life featured a speech by Evans Woollen of Indianapolis, president of the trust company division of the American bankers' association.

The bankers were told that they must be "liberal" in their views; that free speech be permitted their opponents, and that jailing agitators and driving them to underground methods is worse than fruitless. The speaker intimated that it was time for bankers to cease their prattle about the unchangeability of property rights, and to use their brain in contending such acts as inheritance laws.

"An inheritance tax," said Mr. Woollen, "is challenged in effect effectively—as capital tax or any other governmental taking of money is challenged must effectively—not by attempting to evoke unchangeable rights, but by the question whether the proposed governmental taking of property would serve the common good. Our answer always is, of course, that it would not serve the common good in so far as it would impair initiative, without which, in our opinion, the world would not so well get on.

"With the bourbon who holds that property rights—unchangeable in all its aspects—is not discussable in any respect, there is no chance for understanding. There is chance since I."

Mr. Woollen suggested that bankers abandon their zeal for repressive legislation against those whom they oppose.

The present position of the bankers, the speaker said, reveals the attitude we are by the obsession that all good things can be had from legislation.

"For example, for the cure of not driving underground the agitation that otherwise would spend itself in the air, we had better, in time of peace, not be too eager in putting our influence on the side of jailing the talker before he actually starts to do something," said Mr. Woollen.

STATE IS CORRUPTED BY CONVICT LABOR

Oklahoma City, Feb. 23.—Convict labor is corrupting Oklahoma. The state constitution is ignored, and the charge is made that those who profit by this system make large contributions to candidates for office.

The Oklahoma state constitution specifically declares that "the contracting of convict labor is hereby prohibited." Despite this clear statement contracts have been made with the Reliance manufacturing company, one of the sponsors in the country's prison labor trust.

Testifying before a state legislative committee it was disclosed that the evils of prison labor include actual loss to taxpayers, who are led to believe they are saving money by this exploitation of human beings.

J. D. Duncan, who was at one time employed at the penitentiary, told the committee that the Reliance contract is costing the state $70,000 a year. The people are assured that the state is making a profit of $60,000 a year. Duncan said the deficit is concealed by juggling figures. Money to operate the shirt factory is taken from the prison maintenance fund, which is paid by the company and placed in the revolving fund. This is called profit. The witness could not state whether this practice existed in all the states that use the contract. Hints that they do not make these statements have come since Duncan, D. MacNalley, formerly storekeeper, told the committee that the company had failed to pay for as high as 3,500 dozen shirts a month.

IMMIGRATION BILL ATTACKED BY HUGHES

Washington, Feb. 23.—Secretary of State Hughes opposes that part of the pending immigration bill which would exclude Japanese from the country. He wants Japan classed as the other nations, so they will be entitled to their quota of immigrants. In a letter to Congressman Johnson, chairman of the house immigration committee, Mr. Hughes said such exclusion would be "inconsistent" with treaty obligations with Japan. "The Japanese government has, he said, "they already brought the matter to the attention of the department of state."

When the bill was first made given publicity the Japanese government was marketing a $150,000,000 gold bond issue in New York, and these bonds bear 6½ per cent and were quickly oversubscribed. They were distributed among 1,000 banks and investment houses in various parts of the country, and it is fair to assume that these concerns will indorse secretary Hughes' position. Another consideration which the Japanese may not overlook in orders for millions of dollars of building material.

Secretary Hughes' letter is not accepted by congressmen from Pacific coast states which now debar Japanese from holding land.

Congressman Baker of California made this comment:

"Mr. Hughes' first step would be to put the Japanese under the quota arrangement. This would mean abandonment of our policy that they should not be admitted to the United States under any circumstances. The next step, coming on the heels of the first like an avalanche, would be the negotiation of a treaty with the Japanese government abrogating the land laws of our several states relative to land ownership by aliens. Japanese then would come into possession of all our land."

BIG BIZ CAMPAIGN FAILS IN CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 23.—After one of the most extensive propaganda campaigns this country ever witnessed, members of the house, sitting as a committee of the whole, rejected the Mellon tax plan by a vote of 222 to 196. This indicates a healthy contempt for manufactured public opinion by house members of congress.

The campaign was the most elaborate that has been staged in this country since the flag-waving days of '96, when workers were told that factories would close.

This threat was renewed by Mellon plan advocates, who insisted in some cases that employes show them the letters to Washington that they could check the names of those who wrote.

Opposition to this intimidating method is reflected in a letter from the White house to the editor of the American Logion Weekly. The latter intimated the president that the Anaconda company of New York favored intimidating methods against the bonus. The president opposed the bonus, the president let it be known, through a letter written by Private Secretary Slemp, that the company's policy is "subversive to the very fundamentals of democracy."

The defeat of the Mellon plan by the house committee of the whole was made despite the president's plea for party solidarity. Enough progressives in the administration party stood with the minority party.

The Garner bill, as approved by the committee, raises the exemption for single men from $1,000 to $2,000, and for married men from $2,000 to $3,000.

JUDGE UPHOLDS BONUS

New York, Feb. 23.—Acting as arbitrator in a dispute between bricklayers and the Mason Builders' association, Supreme Court Justice Ford ruled that where employers pay bonuses to bricklayers, they must continue the bonus until the structure is completed. The arbitrator held that the demand for bricklayers or that the bonuses were not paid elsewhere had nothing to do with the issue before him.

Justice Ford said the union did not force payment of bonuses, and the union did not forbid contractors from accepting higher wages. The building industry, he continued, was enjoying a period of exceptional activity and profits.

URGES 48-HOUR LAW

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 23.—A 48-hour bill has been introduced in both branches of the state legislature. The proposal has strong backing.

MEAT CUTTERS UNITE

Rockford, Ill., Feb. 23.—Meat cutters in this city have organized, and announce their purpose to improve working conditions.

U. S. SENATORS FAVOR CHILD-LABOR CHECK

Washington, Feb. 23.—A sub-committee has reported to the senate judiciary committee a proposed constitutional amendment which will give congress full power to prohibit child labor. The proposal is a compromise on several child labor amendments to the constitution which have been suggested in the senate.

Senator Cornick's resolution was supported by the A. F. of L. and sympathetic organizations. President Coolidge and other opponents of child labor have accepted the compromise.

Because the question is a constitutional one, there are many views as to the best wording of a resolution that will prohibit child labor without infringing upon the right to control their internal affairs. It is declared that this objection to a federal child labor amendment has been removed by the compromise resolution, which reads as follows:

"Sec. 1. The congress shall have power to prohibit the labor of persons under the age of 18 years and to prescribe the conditions of such labor.

"Sec. 2. The power of the several states is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of any state law shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by congress."

AID FOR GERMAN UNIONS IS URGED BY GOMPERS

New York, Feb. 23.—It is inhuman for a man or a nation "to hold hatred for one's heart's desire in vanquished foe," said President Gompers in appealing to New York organized workers to assist the handicapped German trade unions.

It has been the German trade union movement that has been in the forefront against the return of reaction and the triumph of extreme "lefts," said President Gompers.

Referring to the failure of the German embassy at Washington to run its fiag on the death of the dean of Woodrow Wilson, the trade unionist pleaded that the suffering German people be not held to account for such acts.

The movement to aid the German trade unions is directed by the A. F. of L. committee for aid to the German labor movement.

NO COTTON DELIVERED

New York, Feb. 23.—The national cotton and grain exchange would appear to be largely a gambling proposition, according to testimony by H. C. Cooper, president of the exchange, in a suit involving bankrupt cotton brokers. Cooper said he knew of no witness acknowledged no deliveries or receipts of cotton were ever made over the cotton exchange. Cooper argued several minutes against stating whether other brokers had made deliveries over the exchange. He finally replied that he did not know of any.

TEAMSTERS ORGANIZE

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 23.—Teamsters and truck drivers in this city have formed a union.

PORTO RICANS' PLIGHT REVEALED TO SENATORS

Washington, Feb. 23.—Continued trade union agitation against social and economic conditions in Porto Rico is beneficial fruit among members of congress.

Portions of the Porto Rican commission now in Washington in the interest of greater self-government are quite willing that only the political side of Porto Rico be discussed. It is their view that the trade union members of the commission can become quite popular if they confine their talks before members of congress to the election of island officials.

In a statement to the senate committee, Santiago Iglesias, a trade-union representative of the commission, and member of the Porto Rican senate, said:

"Two-thirds of the annual profits yielded by the agricultural, commercial and industrial producing masses of Porto Rico leave the island in the shape of rents, commissions and dividends estimated at 60 per cent, to be distributed and invested outside the island.

"The trade unionist said it is not strange that under present conditions more than half of a million men, women and children engaged in farm and industrial work are continually in a pregnant condition.

"The terrible curse of absentee landlordism cuts deeply into the economic resources of Porto Rico," continued Senator Iglesias.

"Hundreds of thousands of its most fertile acres are owned by non-residents. As quickly as the rich crops are collected, they are taken out of the country, the supply of sugar, tobacco, coffee and others, an almost infinite source of profit and wealth, is left to the natives.

Under an act passed by congress, land ownership in Porto Rico is limited to 500 acres. The object of the act is to keep the land in the hands of the people. Corporations ignore this law and hold thousands of acres while the United States government fails to act.

"Invisible government" has changed the federal income tax law so that the Porto Rican holdings of big business are exempt. This has created a setback to big business of $9,500,000 during the past five years.

"The island should no longer be utilized as a means of providing opportunities for investment and commercial exploitation by absentee landlords," said Santiago Iglesias. "Neither should the policy of educating the people be sacrificed on account of its expense and alleged uselessness."

EXCESSIVE PROFITS IN BAKING INDUSTRY

New York, Feb. 23.—Just as the nation is discussing excessive profits in the baking industry, the General Baking company unconsciously furthers this agitation by its 1923 report.

Net profits during this period were $5,525,559, the largest in the company's history, being 10 per cent more than in 1922, more than double 1921 and four times the earnings of 1920.

If the company were far-sighted in 1922, and failed to issue two stock dividends, their 1923 profits would be over $160 a share. By increasing the amount of stock, however, profits, per share, is greatly reduced, and is less liable to attract attention.

TEAPOT DOME IN SHIPS

Washington, Feb. 23.—The sale of the steamship City of Los Angeles for $100,000, after the shipping board spent $4,677,001 on her in three years, is another indication how money is made.

The boat was taken over from the military branch of government by the shipping board early in 1920. The board refitted her at a cost of $2,686,077. This included the installing of a fish-oil system and the rebuilding of passenger accommodations. Later the vessel was transferred to the Pacific passenger service. The board expended 47,948 for more repairs, including passenger quarters; $60,000 for hotel equipment and $21,576 for other equipment.

The board then advertised for bids for the sale. The Los Angeles steamship company was the only bidder and was awarded the ship for $100,000. She was $4,500,000 less than the board expended.

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 23.—During the month of January 133 workers in this state lost their lives through industrial accidents, reports the state department of labor. Factories reported the greatest number of fatalities during this period. Construction work, service and transportation followed closely.

TAXICAB BOND UPHELD

Washington, Feb. 23.—The United States supreme court has upheld a New York state law requiring taxicab drivers to furnish bonds to indemnify persons injured through negligence of the driver.

BALLOT ON TAX PLAN CALLED PROPAGANDA

Washington, Feb. 23.—The nationwide balloting for "tax reduction" that a well-known eastern weekly magazine is conducting is propaganda for the Mellon tax plan, said Senator Ralston on the floor of the senate.

On the outside of the envelope containing the ballot, in bold-face type appears the words: Vote for or against the Mellon plan for tax reduction. Do you favor it or not? This envelope contains your official ballot." The words "tax reduction" are in very large letters and at once attract attention.

"Great emphasis," said Senator Ralston, "is placed upon the word 'reduction' all through the literature which is nothing more or less than an argument, very misleading and unfair, for the Mellon plan, because with a warning or threat that you will get no reduction in your income tax unless you send in at once your vote for this plan and let your senators and congressmen know you favor it."

Senator Ralston made no mention is made of the Frear tax plan or the Garner tax plan in this balloting, and there was no effort made to interest the man of small income in the Mellon plan, though the Frear and Garner plans offer more relief than does the reduction the Mellon plan does.

"No appeal to the wealthy is apparently necessary," continued said Senator Ralston. "Every millionaire in the United States is in favor of the Mellon plan."

The senator said that the editor of the magazine "evidently thinks he will fool, freight cars and other property of congress. I predict, Mr. President, that he will have a rude awakening when he reads the post-election ballot after it passes the house and senate."

ALASKA COAL LANDS GRABBED BY LOOTERS

Washington, Feb. 23.—The Alaskan coal reserve lands, intended for navy uses, may develop into another Teapot Dome scandal, according to testimony filed with the president by John E. Ballaine of Alaska and Seattle. The westerner declares that reports were made that this coal is unfit for navy use. Belt line shows that this claim is contrary to reports by navy engineers who compared Alaska coal with standard grades used by the navy. This report, it is stated, has not been made public. The author of the charges that the original blanket railroads, and is considered one of the leading champions of Alaskan conservation.

The Morgan-Guggenheim interests are charged with attempting to capture these coal lands by methods employed to transfer the coal reserves are similar to the methods employed in the Teapot Dome scandal.

Senator La Follette has presented a resolution calling on the navy and interior departments for information touching in their files pertaining to the coal reserves.

RENT INCREASES LEAD WORKERS' WAGE GAINS

Washington, Feb. 23.—Rent increases in the district of Columbia outstrip wage gains, said Mrs. Clara S. Taylor, member of the District rent commission, in urging a continuance of the rent law.

Real estate owners are against the law, and together with members of congress not to re-enact the statute. Congressman Blanton of Texas is leading the fight for the real estate men. At a recent meeting of apartment owners and congressmen Blanton urged both sides practice the Golden Rule. The landlords cheered this statement, but the senators are not fooled by this sentimentality on the part of these hard-boiled business men.

HAWAII IS PROSPEROUS

San Francisco, Feb. 23.—Business in Hawaiian islands is the most prosperous in their history, according to Walter R. Farrington, governor of Hawaii, who is visiting this city.

Governor Farrington states that 1923 was a prosperous year for business, and that the export of one product alone brought the islands more than $25,000,000.

This prosperity report is different from the tale of hardship and woe that the islands would be ruined if they were not permitted to import the cheapest Oriental labor in the world.

WIRE WORKERS ORGANIZE

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 23.—A fine local has been formed by electrical workers in this city, who have affiliated with the bona fide Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

LINE MEN MAKE GAINS

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Electrical workers employed by the Ohio Bell telephone company have secured a union shop agreement.

SAFETY IN INDUSTRY IS MODERN PROBLEM

New York, Feb. 23.—"Safety in industry is distinctly a modern problem," says Dr. Foster Coates of the United States bureau of mines, in a paper read at the meeting of American mining engineers.

"Most probably a number of the toilers who built the pyramids were injured and killed by the breaking of ropes and other mechanical devices with which they put the heavy stones in place, but such occurrences can hardly have made much impression except upon the unfortunate victims and their fellow workers," said Mr. Bain.

"Industrial work was done at that time, and for many centuries thereafter, mainly by slaves, to whom could hardly awaken much more concern than injury to a domestic animal in connection with the status of ownership. Not until the industrial worker became a citizen of the state did the question of safety become an object of general concern. In the middle ages there were many other hazards of life that industrial hazards were overshadowed.

"It is estimated that over 60 million of the inhabitants of Europe died from small pox alone in the eighteenth century."

DEFEAT INCOME TAX BY 8-CENT MARGIN

Washington, Feb. 23.—The Teapot Dome probe reveals that officers of the Sinclair oil companies drew a few more than $50,000 a year, and this made it possible to save hundreds of dollars income tax because they are not in the $50,000 class.

In several cases vice presidents drew $49,999.92. In other cases the annual salary was $49,999.96. H. G. Wylie, a vice president of the Doheny interests, drew $81,666.66 for the year 1922. The list of the two companies is an imposing array of vice presidents who receive princely salaries. E. I. Sinclair, president of the Sinclair interests, heads the list with a salary of $1,000,000 a year.

RAIL EARNINGS UP

Washington, Feb. 23.—Railroad earnings last year totaled $977,543,590, or 5.10 per cent of their estimated value. This is an increase from $776,880,592, or 4.14 per cent, in 1922.

These figures include roads that are being managed by the owners, and those built for stock jobbing purposes. The report indicates the profits that have made possible the well watered properties which serve populous sections.

PROFITS OF 56 PER CENT

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 23.—Last year's profits of the Saigel-Detroit motor car company increased 56 per cent. The amount is $3,180,971, after all charges were paid.

EARNINGS ARE BIG

New York, Feb. 23.—Last year's profits of the American can company total $10,938,094. This is after taxes and other charges have been paid.

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS GAIN

Indianapolis, Feb. 23.—Officers of the United Mine Workers have been notified that an agreement with the Nova Scotia miners reached an agreement with the British Empire steel corporation that carries a wage increase of 10 per cent, instead of a reduction. This agreement is a triumph for trade unionism. Nova Scotia has been swept by a wave of "wild man" methods.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Local newspaper printers have accepted a rate of $1.20 an hour for day work and $1.40 for night work, with a reduction in the work week from 48 hours to 45 hours.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—Newspaper printers in this city have accepted an increase of 4 cents an hour. The new rates are $46.20 for day work and $50.40 for night work.

TRADE UNIONS LEAD WAR ON CONVICT LABOR EVIL

Washington, Feb. 23.—The foundation of a final drive to eliminate prison contract labor in the United States was laid when the A. F. of L. executive council adopted a report submitted as a program of action by 12 organizations called into conference by President Gompers.

The international unions represented at the conference were: Miners, men's garment workers, ladies' garment workers, bookbinders, broom makers, boot and shoe workers, textile workers and machinists. Other representatives were: A. F. of L., union label trades A. F. of L., national committee on prisons and prison labor and general federation of women's clubs.

The cardinal points of the program upon which the fight will be waged are:

First—Adoption of the state and states'-use system, calling for state use, but permitting interstate sale or exchange of surplus products for state use only.

Second—Development of prison industry on a high plane of efficiency, safety and expert management.

Third—Rehabilitation of prisoners through payment for prison work, such payment to go either to dependents or to the prisoner upon release, the cost of maintenance of the prisoner being deducted from the wages earned by him in prison.

In adopting this report the A. F. of L. assumes the leading role in the final battle against the contract system and as its principal weapon adopts a new organization, to be known as the prison labor problem. The states'-use system, as distinguished from the state-use system, calls for a plan providing a method of escape from the contract system in states where there is no legislative chance of escape. Under the states'-use system it becomes possible for a group of states to join forces in the production of goods to consume in state use the surplus output of the state prisons in the group and prison labor and general federation of women's clubs.

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SAVE STATE BOOK LAW

Oklahoma City, Feb. 23.—Four attempts have been made in the special session of the legislature to repeal the free text book law. One of the proposals would cut the appropriation for books down to $1.